

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to preempt regular programming and force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair reaches almost one quarter of US television households and its actions show why we need the FCC to act on the public's behalf to ensure that our media do not become essentially propaganda machines. The public has a right to media that disseminate news and information over the public airways in, if not a non-partisan way, then in a manner that gives appropriate airtime to both sides of the issue - particularly from a giant agglomerate such as Sinclair.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and has a legal obligation to serve the public interest. In this case it is clearly not fulfilling its legal responsibilities. Thank you.